Poor Condition of National Highways

1350. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a part of the network of National Highways is under National Highways Authority of India and the rest is under State PWDs etc;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that this resulted in poor condition of the National Highways; and

(c) what steps are being taken for the proper maintenance of the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the current financial year the allocation for maintenance of national highways has been increased to Rs. 703 crores compared to Rs. 550 crores during the last financial year. Besides, a special maintenance programme has also been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 547 crores.

New Water Transport Policy

†1351. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to construct new highways in order to connect one corner to other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to operate new transport policy by means of rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.